



## Dressmaker cuts out new career for herself

By John Lawrence

After almost 30 years working for some of the biggest names in the world of fashion design, couturière Rashmi Makwana is going it alone.

Working from her home in Deanery Close, Rashmi has started her own service that has already won the attention of Oscar-winner Emma Thompson.

The actress has asked her to design and make a jacket, and other commissions are coming in thick and fast.

Rashmi started in the London fashion design business in 1979 after developing a love for dressmaking during her childhood in Kenya.

She said: "My mother ran sewing and clothes-making classes and when I was young I used to sit and watch. Then I'd cut shapes out of newspaper. My father bought me a toy machine and I used to make dresses for my dolls."

Rashmi has worked for famous bridal designers Phillippa Lepley and Neil Cunningham in London as well as spending 12 years at Liberty in Regent Street.

Now she offers a fully bespoke service for all ladies' fashions, including bridal gowns. "As a couturière, I design and make outfits for one



Rashmi with the toy sewing machine bought for her by her father that got her started in the fashion business. Picture by John Lawrence

person and their body shape. That is what I enjoy and these days it is becoming increasingly rare," she said.

Rashmi can be contacted on 07956 918865 or by email on [couture.rashmi@talk21.com](mailto:couture.rashmi@talk21.com).

## It's busy in the wood

By Ann Bronkhorst

**Coldfall Wood has changed dramatically in recent months. Trees have been felled or coppiced, new vistas revealed, bridges and benches installed. Now the next stage is under way.**

At the western gate on Creighton Avenue a new hand-rail is being erected, followed by the replacement of other railings and the renewal of the tarmac path. During the work, that gate will be closed.

Further into the wood, construction of the much-discussed

reed bed has begun. The aim is to improve the stream's flow and to help control pollution.

Most people who use the wood have heard about the regeneration scheme and have watched its slow progress with interest. Some, however, have seen the piles of logs as an open invitation to help themselves, even filling car boots in broad daylight. As ever, information notices are no substitute for real live park keepers.

**How clean is your wood?**

Real live locals will be a

visible presence on Saturday 28 April for a grand spring-clean. Previous clean-ups, led by the Friends of Coldfall Wood and aided by Haringey Council, have cleared everything from plastic bottles to rusty bikes. The meeting point is at the northern edge of the wood, where it joins the field, at 11am.

And having tidied up the wood, why not enjoy a free guided tour the following day? Meet David Bevan at the main gate at 2pm on Sunday 29 April. On previous walks David has shared his expert knowledge and his passion for Coldfall Wood (*THE ARCHER*, June 2006). It will be interesting to hear his views about the regeneration scheme now it is taking shape.

## Put a building on the list

**Haringey Council is updating its register of listed local buildings.**

If you would like to put forward a building for possible inclusion, contact Muswell Hill and Fortis Green Association members John Crompton on 020 8883 7286 or Pat Bloomfield on 020 8883 1998.

## Party time for 2

By Daphne Chamberlain

**Sunday 15 April could be a party day for East Finchley. At 12 noon, Mayor Eva Greenspan will relaunch Tu Destino as 2 Destino, and in turn will receive cheques from local people and traders for her designated charity, the Variety Club for Children. Tu Destino's Rosario Castro-Garcia hopes that the occasion will be a community event for all the family.**

"Watch out for our special balloons", she told *THE ARCHER*. "They will mark the places where there will be something going on, maybe some special offers or an entertainment. Come along and find out."

Tu Destino, the florist at 128 High Road, is well known for its balloons and its array of beautiful gifts. Now it will be

extending its range, opening up wedding and christening areas, to include items such as christening clothes.

Rosario is looking forward to other shops and restaurants joining in the fun on relaunch day. "We're such a good community in East Finchley", she says, "and it's really important for us all to work together."

## School parking time changes

**Anyone dropping off or collecting children from Holy Trinity School will have fewer places to park in the near future under a plan being put forward by Barnet Council.**

The council wants to impose extra restrictions on parking spots in Kitchener Road, Market Place, Prospect Ring and Park Road. The aim is to prevent obstructive parking and generally improve road safety close to the school in Eagans Close.

The proposed parking changes are designed to tie in with Holy Trinity's School Travel Plan which seeks to boost children's fitness and ease local traffic congestion by encouraging more pupils and their guardians to leave the car at home.

Earlier this year, the council introduced a number of new dropped kerbs at key road junctions around the school to make safer crossings for junior cyclists and people pushing prams.

**New 'no waiting' rules**

The extra parking restric-

tions being proposed would prohibit waiting at any time around the junctions of Market Place and Kitchener Road, Market Place and Prospect Ring, Market Place and Chapel Close. Currently, non-residents are only prohibited from parking in these spots between 2-3pm Monday to Friday.

Additionally, drivers would be prohibited from parking at any time around the junction of Park Road and Park Gate. Non-residents are currently prohibited from these spots either between 2-3pm Monday to Friday or 8am-6.30pm Monday to Saturday.

Barnet Council first publicised the proposed changes on 1 March and anyone wishing to object was required to submit their comments by 21 March. A date for the implementation of the parking changes will be confirmed if they are approved.

## Bus stops and parking bays to be moved

By John Dearing

**Barnet Council has issued a Traffic Order as part of the London Buses Priority Network scheme to improve bus accessibility along the 263 bus route, and to reduce traffic delay and congestion. Notices have been posted near the affected areas in the High Road.**

The general effect will be the relocation of existing bus stop clearways to more suitable locations, and the relocation of short stay pay-and-display parking places, motorcycle parking places and doctor parking places.

In detail:

- The bus stop clearway outside Nos. 101-107 High Road will be relocated outside Nos. 87 to 93 High Road.
- Short stay pay-and-display parking spaces will be provided outside Nos. 101-107 High Road.
- The motorcycle parking place outside Nos. 87 and 89 High Road will be relocated as

a solo motorcycle parking place outside No. 95 High Road.

d) The doctor parking place outside No. 91 High Road will be relocated outside No. 97 High Road.

e) The bus stop clearway outside Nos. 60-66 High Road N2 will be relocated outside Nos. 66-80 High Road.

f) The short stay pay-and-display parking place outside Nos. 66-74 High Road will be relocated outside Nos. 60-66 High Road.

It is also proposed to convert the existing motorcycle parking place outside Mulberry Court, near Bedford Road, to a solo motorcycle parking place.

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